

## The Daily Bulletin: 2025-02-26

### PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 40 (2025-2026) [GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 2025 PART 1](#). Filed Feb 3 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES AND SESSION LAWS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.*

House amendment to the second edition makes the following changes.

Section 8.

Removes the section its entirety, which was provisions codifying SL 1969-1089, as amended into Article 6B, The Lake Norman Commission," in GS Chapter 77.

**Intro. by Davis.**

GS 1, GS 7B, GS 14, GS 15A, GS 29, GS 50, GS 52, GS 58, GS 89E, GS 90A, GS 104E, GS 108A, GS 108B, GS 110, GS 115C, GS 116, GS 121, GS 122C, GS 126, GS 128, GS 131D, GS 131E, GS 135, GS 140, GS 140A, GS 143, GS 143A, GS 143B, GS 144, GS 147, GS 150B, GS 153A, GS 160A, GS 160D, GS 168

**Business and Commerce, Insurance, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Family Law, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning, Property and Housing, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Employment and Retirement, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, APA/Rule Making, General Assembly, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR), Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Insurance, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Mental Health**

[View summary](#)

H 130 (2025-2026) (2025-2026) [AGRICULTURE CROPS DISASTER RELIEF](#). Filed Feb 13 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND FUND AN AGRICULTURAL DISASTER CROP LOSS PROGRAM.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes.

Section 3.1

Modifies the eligibility criteria for the Crop Loss Program so that the "eligibility date" for losses related to planted, but not harvested, commodities and aquaculture commodities refers to the date of the disaster set forth in the Secretarial declaration for the county in which the agricultural or aquaculture commodities are located and for which verifiable losses, damage, or degradation are claimed.

Extends the following dates and dates under the process to document the loss to be established by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department):

- Now requires submission to the Department by no later than 45 days (was, 30 days) after the Crop Loss Program is effective.
- Now allows for an additional 45-day extension (was, 30-day extension) for verification of nursery crops, fruit-bearing trees and bushes, and specialty crops where the survival level is not immediately known upon written request by the farmer that is received no later than 45 days (was, 30 days) after the Crop Loss Program becomes effective and with approval by the Department.

Revises the provisions pertaining to required refunds of awards under the Agricultural Crop Loss Program so that the refund provisions are also triggered if a person received financial assistance for which they were ineligible (was, only that the amount of the financial assistance received is based on inaccurate information). States that should a triggering event occur, the recipient forfeits the assistance awarded and that it bears interest at the statutory rate set forth in GS 105-241.21 until repaid. Now requires for forfeited financial assistance that is not repaid to be recouped through a civil action by the Attorney General at the request of the Commissioner of Agriculture (was, collection by Department of Revenue).

Adds specialty crop to the definition of *agricultural commodity*.

**Intro. by Dixon, Penny, N. Jackson, Eddins.**

[APPROP](#)

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[Agriculture, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#)

H 224 (2025-2026) [STRENGTHEN OUR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES ACT](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GAMING EDUCATION REVENUE FUND AND TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THAT FUND*.

Currently, funds from the Indian Gaming Education Revenue Fund (Fund) in GS 143C-9-7 are to be used for the sole purpose of educating children in the classroom. Now, in addition to education spending, requires quarterly allocations from the Fund to the NC State Commission of Indian Affairs (Commission), the non-gaming Indian tribes recognized by the State in GS Chapter 71A, and the four Urban Indian Organizations that are members of the Commission to be used for Commission operating expenses and to support cultural and economic development. Renames the “Indian Gaming Education Revenue Fund” to the “Indian Gaming Fund.” Makes conforming changes throughout, including to statute's title.

Appropriates the following from the Fund:

- \$2 million from the Fund to the Department of Administration, to the Commission in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium for operating expenses and programs.
- \$5.25 million from the Fund to OBSM in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium to be divided equally amongst the seven named non-gaming Indian tribes to provide directed grants for cultural, educational, and economic development.
- \$400,000 from the Fund to OBSM in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium to be divided equally amongst the four named Urban Indian Organizations to provide directed grants for cultural, educational, and economic development.
- \$100,000 from the Fund for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium to support the State Advisory Council on Indian Education.
- Appropriates \$1.1 million from the Fund to OBSM for the 2025-26 fiscal year to provide directed grants to the two listed Tribes and one listed school.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Lowery, B. Jones, Ward, Chesser.**

[APPROP, GS 143C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Administration, Office of State Budget and](#)

H 227 (2025-2026) [U.S. & AMP N.C. FLAGS/MADE IN USA](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT PROVIDING THAT STATE INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE SHALL NOT USE PUBLIC FUNDS TO PURCHASE FLAGS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UNLESS THE FLAGS ARE MADE IN THE UNITED STATES.*

Enacts new GS 144-10 prohibiting State institutions or political subdivision of the State from using public funds to purchase US or North Carolina flags unless the flag has been entirely manufactured in the US using articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or entirely produced or manufactured in the United States. Applies to purchases made on or after October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Goodwin, Chesser, Riddell, Charles Smith.**

[GS 144](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Government, State Government, State Property, Local Government](#)

H 228 (2025-2026) [CITY OF ASHEVILLE/FUNDS FOR STUDY](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE TO CONDUCT OR FACILITATE A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM TO THE NEW PISGAH VIEW STATE PARK.*

Appropriates \$25,000 from the General Fund to the City of Asheville for 2025-26 to conduct or facilitate a study on the feasibility and cost of extending the City's water system several miles to serve the new Pisgah View State Park. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Prather, Ager, Turner.**

[APPROP, Buncombe](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations](#)

H 229 (2025-2026) [MEDICAID RATES/AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO ADJUST MEDICAID RATES PAID TO AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS.*

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits (Division), to amend the Medicaid State Plan to set and adjust rates for all services provided by licensed ambulatory surgical centers so that these services are reimbursed at a rate of at least 95% of the Medicare Ambulatory Surgical Centers fee schedule in effect as of January 1 of each year, as published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Specifies that the initial rate adjustments are effective on the effective date approved by CMS for the State Plan amendment.

Appropriates \$10,476,000 from the General Fund to the Division in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium to implement the changes required by the act. Specifies that the funds provide a State match for the \$19,135,000 in recurring federal funds during this time.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Potts, White, Reeder, Campbell.**

[APPROP](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Social Services, Public Assistance](#)

H 230 (2025-2026) [CREATE CRIME FOR HABITUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE A FELONY CRIME OF HABITUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO ALLOW A WARRANTLESS ARREST WHEN AN OFFICER HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE A MISDEMEANOR CRIME OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAS OCCURRED*.

Establishes crime of habitual domestic violence in new GS 14-32.6 when: (1) a person commits either misdemeanor domestic violence or an assault and (2) the person has a relationship with the victim that is one of those described as triggering the crime of misdemeanor domestic violence (e.g., a current or former spouse; parent or guardian; a current or former cohabitant; or someone with a current or former dating relationship with the victim) and (3) the person has two or more prior convictions that include any of a combination of listed offenses, with the earlier of the two prior convictions occurring no more than 15 years prior to the date of the current violation. Bars a conviction of habitual domestic violence from being used as a prior conviction for any other habitual offense statute. Designates first offense as a Class H felony with subsequent convictions to be punished at a level which is one offense class higher than the offense class of the most recent prior conviction under the statute, not to exceed a Class C felony. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Expands upon the list of misdemeanors committed out of the presence of a law enforcement officer to include misdemeanor domestic violence that would allow the officer to make a warrantless arrest under GS 15A-401(b). Makes technical changes. Applies to arrests made on or after the act becomes law.

**Intro. by Torbett.**

[GS 14, GS 15A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure](#)

H 231 (2025-2026) [SOCIAL WORK INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACT](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND ENTER INTO AN INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK*.

Identical to [S 155](#), filed 2/25/25.

Reorganizes GS Chapter 90B into Articles and moves specified existing statutes into Article 1. Retitles the Chapter as Social Worker Certification and Licensure.

Adds new Article 2, Social Work Licensure Compact (Compact), providing as follows. Set out the purpose of the Compact and Compact objectives. Sets out and defines terms as they are used in the Article.

Sets out criteria that must be met by a state to become a member of the Compact and for a member state to maintain membership. Requires member states to designate the categories of social work licensure eligible for issuance of a multistate license for applicants in that member state. Provides that to the extent a member state does not meet the requirements for participation in the Compact in any particular category of social work licensure, that member state may choose to issue a multistate license to applicants that otherwise meet the requirements for issuance of a multistate license in those categories of licensure.

Requires applicants to meet the following to be eligible for a multistate license: (1) hold or be eligible for an active, unencumbered license in the home state; (2) pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the multistate license; (3) submit, in connection with an application for a multistate license, fingerprints or other biometric data for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information; (4) notify the home state of any adverse action, encumbrance, or restriction on any professional license taken by any member state or non-member state within 30 days from the date the action is taken; (5) meet any continuing competence requirements established by the home state; and (6) abide by the laws, regulations, and applicable standards in the member state where the client is located at the time care is rendered. Requires applicants for a clinical-category multistate license to meet specified requirements for fulfilling a competency requirement, attain at least a master's degree in social work from a program meeting specified qualifications, and fulfill a practice requirement by completion of one of the listed types of practice. Requires applicants for a master's category multistate license to meet specified requirements for fulfilling a competency requirement, and attaining at least a master's degree in social work from a program meeting specified qualifications. Requires applicants for a bachelor's category multistate license to meet specified requirements

for fulfilling a competency requirement, and attaining at least a bachelor's degree in social work from a program meeting specified qualifications. Sets out provisions governing renewal of a license. Makes services provided in a remote state subject to that member state's regulatory authority. Allows a remote state to remove a regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice in the remote state or take other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens. Requires that if a multistate license is encumbered, the regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice must be deactivated in all remote states until the license is no longer encumbered. Provides that if a multistate authorization to practice is encumbered in a remote state, then the multistate authorization to practice may be deactivated in that state until the multistate authorization to practice is no longer encumbered.

Sets out the steps a home state must take to issue a multistate license. Requires that a multistate license issued by a home state to a resident in that State be recognized by all Compact member states as authorizing social work practice under a multistate authorization to practice corresponding to each category of licensure regulated in the member state.

Sets out limitations on the Compact and specifies the ways in which the Compact does not interfere with a member state's powers.

Limits licensees to holding a multistate license in only one member state at a time. Sets out provisions governing how to change home states. Requires active military members and their spouses to designate a home state and allows retaining that home state during active duty.

Sets out the process under which a remote state or home state can take an adverse action against a licensee and allows for joint investigations.

Establishes a Social Work Licensure Compact Commission (Commission) with 22 specified duties, including to meet and take such actions consistent with the provisions of this Compact and the bylaws; initiate legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any state occupational therapy licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected; purchase and maintain insurance and bonds; and assess and collect fees. Sets out membership requirements, with each member state limited to one delegate; provides for removal of members and filling of vacancies. Requires the Commission to meet at least once a year and allows meeting electronically. Establishes an 11-member Executive Committee with the power to act on behalf of the Commission. Sets out the Committee's powers and duties, memberships, and meeting requirements. Requires Commission meetings to be open to the public, except for listed matters that may be discussed in a closed meeting. Sets out notice requirements for meeting, including special meetings for emergency business. Allows the Commission to levy an annual assessment on member states and impose fees on other licensees of member states to whom it grants a multistate license. Sets out additional regulations governing these fees. Provides for immunity from liability for members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the Commission, and provides for Commission defense against such lawsuits.

Requires the Commission to provide for the development, maintenance, operation, and use of a coordinated database and reporting system that includes licensure, adverse action, and the presence of current significant investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states. Requires each applicant for a multistate license to be given a unique identifier. Requires member states to submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this Compact is applicable, including specified information. Sets out limitation on the use of information and records. Prohibits sharing data with the public unless the contributing state gives permission.

Requires the Commission to promulgate reasonable rules in order to achieve the purposes of the Compact effectively and efficiently. Sets out provisions governing the adoption of rules by the Commission.

Requires the executive and judicial branches of state government in each member state to enforce the Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to implement the Compact. Sets out provisions governing proper venue, service of process, enforcement of the Compact by the Commission, terminating membership of a defaulting state from the Compact, and dispute resolution.

Makes the Compact effective on the date on which the Compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh member state. Sets out provisions for a member state to withdraw from the Compact. Sets out provisions governing the construction of the compact and includes a severability clause. Provides that any laws, statutes, regulations, or other legal requirements in a member state in conflict with the Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

Effective when at least seven states have enacted the Compact. Requires the NC Social Work Certification and Licensure Board to report to the Revisor of Statutes when the Compact has been enacted by seven member states.

**Intro. by Reeder, Campbell, Potts, Blackwell.**

GS 90B

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Health and Human Services, Social Services**

H 232 (2025-2026) [FUNDS/SHORT-LINE RAILROAD DISASTER ASSISTANCE](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF SHORT-LINE RAILROADS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HELENE*.

Directs the State Controller to transfer \$16,392,176 from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Reserve to the Department of Transportation's Rail Division (Division) for 2025-26 for the Freight Rail & Rail Safety Improvement Fund (Rail Fund). Appropriates those funds from the Rail Fund to be used to provide grants for recovery and repair of the following short-line railroads damaged by Hurricane Helene:

- \$14 million to Blue Ridge Southern Railroad, LLC, for line restoration.
- \$2,392,176 for track rehabilitation, facility repairs, and revenue loss to the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, LLC.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Pless, Clampitt.**

APPROP

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**Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Office of State Controller, Transportation**

H 233 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR TOWN OF MILTON](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE TOWN OF MILTON FOR REPAIRS AT THE TOWN'S WASTEWATER PUMP STATION*.

Appropriates \$13,215 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the Town of Milton to be used as the title indicates.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Price.**

APPROP, Caswell

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**Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Office of State Budget and Management, Public Enterprises and Utilities**

H 234 (2025-2026) [LITTLE FEDERAL MODEL NC EDITION](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT EACH SENATOR REPRESENTS TWO COUNTIES, TO PERMIT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REVISE THE SENATE DISTRICTS FROM TIME TO TIME, AND TO REQUIRE THAT THE STATE IS COMPOSED OF ONE HUNDRED COUNTIES*.

Subject to the approval of voters at the general election in November 2026, amends the NC Constitution as follows.

Amends Section 3 of Article II to require the NCGA to revise the senate districts and the apportionment of Senators among those districts from time to time (currently at the first regular session convening after the return of every decennial census).

Requires that each Senator represent two counties (currently, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, the number of inhabitants that each Senator represents being determined for this purpose by dividing the population of the district that he represents by the number of Senators apportioned to that district). Makes conforming changes.

Amends Section 1 of Article VII to set the number of counties in the state at 100.

Sets out the required ballot language.

**Intro. by Adams, Carson Smith, Gillespie, Kidwell.**

CONST

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**Constitution, Government, Elections, General Assembly**

H 235 (2025-2026) **FRAUDULENT DEEDS**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO PENALIZE THE FILING OF FRAUDULENT DEEDS AND CONVEYANCES, TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ENABLE A VICTIM OF A FRAUDULENT DEED FILING TO REMOVE THE FRAUDULENT RECORDING FROM THE RECORD, AND TO REQUIRE TAX CERTIFICATION PRIOR TO RECORDING CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS.*

Adds an additional offense to GS 14-122, making it unlawful for a person to present for filing or recording in a public record or a private record generally available to the public a deed or transfer of real property of an owner, knowing or having reason to know that the deed or conveyance is false or contains a materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation.

Makes it a Class C felony if the value of property is \$100,000 or more and a Class G felony if the value of property is less than \$100,000. Makes conforming changes to the statute's title.

Adds new GS 14-118.6A, pertaining to fraudulent deeds or conveyances, as follows. Allows the actual owner of an interest in real property subject to a recorded false, fictitious, or fraudulent deed or conveyance to file a civil action and proceed pro se, without the assistance of legal counsel. Provides for jurisdiction, the availability of emergency relief upon an ex parte hearing and a sworn statement and evidence supporting the allegation of the recording as false or fraudulent, and an adversarial hearing after the issuance of a temporary ex parte order. Authorizes the court, in issuing a permanent order under the statute, to grant possession and order ejectment, award attorneys' fees and costs, and stay any proceedings involving the subject real property in which the property owner is not a party. Provides for a process for register of deeds to record and cross reference any order under the section declaring a deed false and void as a matter of law. Provides that the presentation of an instrument for recording with a register of deeds that purports to be a deed or conveyance that is determined to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent is an unfair trade practice. Makes it a Class G felony for a person to initiate an action under the section knowing that the subject deed or conveyance is not false, fictitious, or fraudulent.

Amends GS 161-31 to now require all county board of commissions to, by resolution, require the register of deeds not to accept any deed transferring real property for registration unless the county tax collector has certified that no delinquent ad valorem county taxes, ad valorem municipal taxes, or other taxes with which the collector is charged are a lien on the property described in the deed (previously, only certain listed county commissioners had discretion to require this). Makes conforming changes.

Applies to documents and instruments submitted for recording on or after December 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Torbett.**

GS 14, GS 161

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**Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, Tax**

H 236 (2025-2026) **REMEMBER 9/11 WITH FREEDOM FLAG**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT DESIGNATING THE FREEDOM FLAG AS A SYMBOL OF THE STATE'S CONTINUED REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIVES LOST DUE TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, AND AUTHORIZING THE FREEDOM FLAG TO BE DISPLAYED ON SEPTEMBER 11 OF EACH YEAR.*

Enacts new GS 145-32.1 designating the Freedom Flag created by the Freedom Flag Foundation as a symbol of the State's remembrance of American lives lost as a result of the terrorist attacks in the US on September 11, 2001. Allows the flag to be flown with the US and State flags on public buildings and institutions and at county courthouses statewide on September 11. Allows public offices and officials to accept a donation of a Freedom Flag.

**Intro. by Moss, Kidwell, Ward.**

GS 145

[View summary](#)

**Government, Cultural Resources and Museums**

H 237 (2025-2026) **CHILD WELFARE**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE LAWS AFFECTING JUVENILES AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES, COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS, REGIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS, CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARDS AND AGENCIES, AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.*

Part I.

Amends the purposes set forth in GS 7B-100 that are applicable to Subchapter I of GS Chapter 7B, governing abuse, neglect, dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings. Now states as a purpose of the Subchapter that when it is not in the best interest of the juvenile to be returned home, the juvenile will be placed in a safe, permanent home within one year from the date of the initial order removing custody (was, within a reasonable amount of time).

Expands the definitions of abused juveniles and neglected juvenile provided in GS 7B-101. Now includes any juvenile less than 18 who is found to be a victim of unlawful sale, surrender, or purchase of a minor under GS 14-43.14 (previously, included in the list of offenses that if committed by a parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker of a juvenile under 18, deemed the juvenile an abused juvenile). Changes the statutory violations listed for which a parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker of a juvenile under 18, the commission of which deems the juvenile abused pursuant to the definition of an abused juvenile. Now includes sexually violent offenses as defined in GS 14-208.6(5), applicable to the Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Programs (replacing individually listed GS Chapter 14 sexual offenses previously listed). Now deems a neglected juvenile any juvenile less than 18 whose parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker uses an illegal substance, abuses alcohol, or illegally uses a controlled substance and is unable to care for and provide a safe and appropriate home for the juvenile, or (2) uses an illegal substance, abuses alcohol, or illegally uses a controlled substance while a child is in utero.

Expands the available grounds for obtaining nonsecure custody of a juvenile alleged to be abused, neglected or dependent which are set forth in GS 7B-503. Now allows for a court to order nonsecure custody if the juvenile is an infant born exposed to alcohol, illegal substances, or illegally used controlled substances. However, the parent's use cannot be the sole ground for a nonsecure custody order if the parent is enrolled in and meeting or exceeding benchmarks of a substance abuse treatment program recommended by a medical provider or an LME/MCO. Adds a new requirement that the court must consider the developmental and attachment needs of the juvenile when making nonsecure custody determinations.

Amends GS 7B-505, adding the juvenile's next of kin to the relatives and other persons with custody of any siblings of the juvenile which the department of social services (dss) must identify and notify within 30 days of the initial nonsecure custody order. Adds a new requirement that the court must consider the developmental and attachment needs of the juvenile in determining whether placement with an identified relative while in nonsecure custody would be contrary to the best interest of the juvenile.

Modifies the aggravating circumstances which require a court to direct, in the initial dispositional order, that dss is not required to make reasonable efforts for reunification of the juvenile under GS 7B-901(c). Regarding a court's determination of a parent's commission or encouragement of the commission of, or allowance of the continuation of, chronic or toxic exposure to alcohol, illegal substances, or controlled substances in violation of the law, now specifically states that in utero exposure to alcohol, illegal substance, or controlled substances in violation of the law is included. Directs the court to consider the parent's enrollment in and meeting or exceeding the benchmarks of a substance abuse treatment program recommended by medical provider or LME/MCO.

Amends GS 7B-903, which lists dispositional alternatives the court may order following the adjudication of a juvenile as abused, neglected or dependent, to require the court to consider the developmental and attachment needs of the juvenile when



determining whether placement with a relative would be contrary to the best interest of the juvenile. Limited to the provisions of GS 7B-903 only, deems a foster parent to be nonrelative kin of the juvenile once the juvenile has resided in the home of the foster parent for a continuous period of at least nine months, so long as the juvenile is not a member of a State-recognized tribe.

Amends GS 7B-903.1(c) regarding required observation visits with the juvenile and the parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker from whom the juvenile was removed, to specify that dss can recommend unsupervised visits or return of physical custody of the juvenile, whichever occurs first.

Regarding whether hearings which follow the initial dispositional hearing are designated review hearings or permanency planning hearings, amends GS 7B-906.1 to designate hearings for a juvenile who was residing with a caretaker at the time the abuse, neglect or dependency petition was filed as a permanency planning hearing (previously, review hearings were held for a juvenile that was not removed from a caretaker). Amends the required relevant findings the court must make at each review and permanency planning hearing under GS 7B-906.1 as follows. Removes the exception for hearings noticed and heard as permanency planning hearings from the requirement that the court schedule a permanency planning hearing within 30 days of a review hearing in which a juvenile is removed from the custody of a parent, guardian, or custodian. If relevant, requires the court to make written findings regarding whether reunification would be unsuccessful or inconsistent with the juvenile's health or safety and need for a safe, permanency home within one year from the date the initial order removing custody was entered (was, within a reasonable period of time). Adds that this finding must also address whether the parent has engaged in any of the factors described in GS 7B-901(c) which require that the court direct that reunification efforts are not required at initial disposition. Limits the court's authority to maintain or order a different placement, appoint a guardian of the person, or order any dispositional alternative under subsection (i) to permanency planning hearings. Specifies that visitation requirements under GS 7B-903.1 apply when the court orders custody or placement to dss, in addition to instances in which the court continues custody or placement with dss, under subsection (l). Limits the authority of the court to waive future hearings, subject to making five required findings, to permanency planning hearings only. Eliminates "cogent" from the evidentiary standard required for the court's findings to waive future permanency planning hearings, hold the hearings less often than required, or require written reports in lieu of hearings. Changes the five required findings for waiver under subsection (n) as follows. As an alternative to a finding that the juvenile has resided in the placement for at least one year, allowing for the parties to agree and the court to enter a consent order (was, that the juvenile has resided in the placement for at least six consecutive months and the court enters a consent order). Requires that all parties are aware that the matter can be brought before the court for review at any time by filing a permanency planning or modification motion (was, a motion for review) or on the court's own motion. Makes technical changes.

Modifies the criteria for standing to petition or motion to terminate the parental rights (TPR) of a parent under GS 7B-1103(a) to include any person with whom the juvenile has resided for a continuous period of 15 months (was, 18 months) or more next preceding the filing.

Amends GS 7B-1109 to specify that the evidentiary standard to adjudicate a TPR ground is clear and convincing evidence (was, clear, cogent and convincing).

Amends the grounds upon which a parent's rights may be terminated under GS 7B-1111(a) to include that the parent has willfully left the juvenile in foster care or placement outside of the home for more than nine months (was, 12 months) without showing reasonable progress under the circumstances in correcting the conditions which led to the juvenile's removal.

Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to TPR petitions and motions filed on or after that date.

## Part II.

Immediately stays the Regional Abuse and Medical Specialist (RAMS) program staffed within the NC Child Medical Evaluation Program (NC CMEP), pending compliance with three objectives, which include establishing program rules pursuant to GS Chapter 150A, amendment and federal approval of any State plan, and federal approval of RAMS program rules. Requires modification of any contracts or memorandums of understanding between the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the UNC School of Medicine to comply with the act.

Directs the Social Services Commission (Commission) to adopt rules to implement the RAMS program and lists 10 required components, including limiting the RAMS team focus to screened-in cases meeting specified criteria, requiring the county dss director to decide issues where there is a disagreement between the local social services worker and the RAMS team, and establishing the frequency in which the RAMS team member and the social worker supervisor must meet during the family or investigative assessment period. Within 30 days of the completion of the rulemaking process, requires the DHHS Secretary

(Secretary) or their designee to submit the proposed rules and any proposed changes to the State plan to the US Secretary of Health and Human Services (US Secretary) or their designee. Requires the Commission to initiate the rulemaking process within 30 days of the date the act becomes effective. Prohibits any rule, statute or plan amendment which the US Secretary determines would negatively impact federal funding to the State from becoming effective. Requires the Secretary or their designee to notify the Commission and the Rules Review Commission of the US Secretary's determinations within five days of receipt.

Directs the Division to annually report to the specified NCGA committees and chairs beginning September 1, 2025, on the hiring, training, and oversight of the RAMS program and the rulemaking process. Requires all reports provided to the federal government relevant to the RAMS program to be simultaneously provided to the specified NCGA committees and chairs.

Details the effective dates for rules adopted pursuant to the act, based on whether approval of the US Secretary is required or State plan amendments are necessary because of the proposed rules. Requires the Secretary to report to the Revisor applicable effective dates once known.

#### Part III.

Enacts GS 143B-138.1A, establishing a private cause of action against DHHS for any individual who experiences a loss or harm due to the Secretary or their designee taking any action or causing any action to be taken against an individual through a program created, administered, supervised, or funded by DHHS that is operating without going through the required rulemaking process. Provides for the prevailing individual to recover litigation costs. Applies to actions taken by DHHS on or after October 1, 2025.

#### Part IV.

Effective March 1, 2026, amends GS 108A-9, GS 108A-15.8, and GS 153A-77 to require members of county boards of social services, regional boards of social services, and consolidated human services board members to attend education and training sessions provided for new board members during their first year of service. Directs the Division of Social Services (applicable to county and regional boards) and the Divisions of Social Services, Public Health, and Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services (applicable to consolidated boards) to collaborate with specified stakeholders to create formal education and training sessions required of new board members, including a segment on the potential liabilities of the applicable board, with sessions available statewide by March 1, 2026. Requires all board members to have participated in the sessions by March 1, 2028.

#### Part V.

Directs the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to conduct a feasibility and cost study of a proposed child support tribunal in which dedicate court officers would hear child support matter using quasi-judicial procedures. Details required considerations of the study. Requires AOC to submit its findings and recommendations to the specified NCGA committee by May 1, 2026.

#### Part VI.

Enacts GS 108A-15.16 to require county and regional departments of social services and consolidated human services agencies to expeditiously work to resolve conflicts of interest pursuant to applicable law and DHHS policies and procedures. Describes three instances which qualify as a conflict of interest, including when the department or agency cannot manage adverse interests of two individuals to whom the office owes a duty to serve. Requires DHHS policies and procedures to address financial and practice responsibilities associated with conflicts of interest. Provides for offices to contact DHHS when a conflict arises and grants DHHS final authority regarding conflicts of interest assignments when a dispute arises, with regional and central offices having initial authority as specified.

Directs the Social Services Commission to report to the specified NCGA committee within 30 days of adopting the rules addressing conflicts of interest. Directs the Social Services Commission to adopt rules regarding conflicts of interest management that address described required components within 30 days of the date the act becomes law.

#### Part VII.

Directs the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (Committee) on Health and Human Services to study, evaluate, and make recommendations on five described proposals regarding foster children, foster families, and kinship providers. Further directs

the committee to: (1) work with DHHS and county boards to create uniform standards regarding child welfare matters; (2) make recommendations from information updated provided by DHHS on the Child Welfare and Family Well-being Transformation Team; (3) work with the Supreme Court Chief Justice regarding improvements to child welfare cases, obtain updates from the Task Force of Adverse Childhood Experience Informed Courts, and make recommendations based on the information provided; (4) work with DHHS regarding the working group working to identify innovative Medicaid services to fill gaps in care for foster children and the development of the trauma-informed standardized assessment for foster cases, and make recommendations based thereon; and (5) any other issues the committee deems appropriate for the improvement of the child welfare system. Directs the Committee to report to the 2026 NCGA prior to its convening.

**Intro. by Stevens.**

[STUDY, GS 7B, GS 108A, GS 153A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, Court System, Administrative Office of the Courts, Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Social Services](#)

H 238 (2025-2026) [REIMBURSE BUNCOMBE CO. FOR COST OF STUDY](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO REIMBURSE BUNCOMBE COUNTY FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION STUDY REQUIRED BY LAW.*

Appropriates \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for 2025-26 to be allocated to Buncombe County, to be used as the title indicates. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Prather, Ager, Turner.**

[APPROP, Buncombe](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations](#)

H 239 (2025-2026) [CHANGE TO EC FUNDING FORMULA](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FUNDING FORMULA.*

Modifies GS 115C-111.05, setting forth funding for children with disabilities by the State Board of Education (Board), as follows. Exempts public schools for the deaf and blind established under Article 9C of GS Chapter 115C from the statute's requirements. Makes conforming changes. Now requires that those schools receiving funds receive funds that are the lesser of (1) all children who are identified as children with disabilities or (2) 13% of the sum of the allocated average daily membership in the public school units co-located within the boundaries of a local school administrative unit for the current school year, plus the number of students that received scholarship grants pursuant to Part 2A of Article 39 of GS Chapter 115C (private and proprietary school grants) for the most recent school year that data is available and reside within the boundaries of the local school administrative unit. (Currently, the lesser of prong (1) or 13% of its allotted average daily membership in the local school administrative unit for the current school year). Requires the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) to provide the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by March 15 annually the number of students provided such scholarship grants that resided within the boundaries of each local school administrative unit during the most recent school year.

Appropriates \$25 million from the General Fund to DPI in recurring funds for the 2025-26 school year to be allocated to public school units for children with disabilities funding.

Effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the funding allocations for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

**Intro. by Scott, Almond, Penny, Rhyne.**

[APPROP, GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies,](#)

H 241 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR PERSON COUNTY PROJECTS](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC PROJECTS IN PERSON COUNTY*.

Appropriates \$10 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to provide a directed grant to the City of Roxboro for repairs and upgrades to the City's wastewater and treatment plant.

Appropriates \$800,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to OSBM to provide a directed grant to Person County so the Recreation, Arts, and Parks Department can construct a splash pad.

Appropriates \$5 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to OSBM to provide a directed grant to Piedmont Community College to upfit and purchase equipment for its Center for Health, Advanced Technology, and Trades.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Jeffers.**

[APPROP, Person](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Office of State Budget and Management](#)

H 242 (2025-2026) [ADD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS TO MEDICAID HASP](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO INCLUDE FREESTANDING PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS AS HOSPITALS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS UNDER THE MEDICAID HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND STABILIZATION PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THOSE PAYMENTS THROUGH INCREASED HOSPITAL ASSESSMENTS*.

Adds defined term, freestanding psychiatric hospital to GS 108A-145.3 (definitions provisions of the Hospital Assessment Act) and makes conforming and organizational changes. Amends GS 108A-148.1 (pertaining to the State's Healthcare Access and Stabilization Program [HASP]) so that the HASP must provide qualifying freestanding standing psychiatric hospitals within increased reimbursements funded through hospital assessment, so long as it is approved by CMS. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to submit a 42 CFR 438.6(c) preprint requesting approval to include freestanding psychiatric hospitals in HASP. Defines qualifying freestanding psychiatric hospital as a freestanding psychiatric hospital as defined in GS 108A-145.3 that is Medicare-certified and submits Hospital Cost Report Information System cost report data to CMS.

Amends the definition of modernized HASP component in GS 108A-146.10 so that it is now an amount of money that is calculated each quarter by multiplying the aggregate amount of HASP directed payments due to PHPs in the current quarter for reimbursements to acute care hospitals (currently, just hospitals) that are not attributable to newly eligible individuals by the nonfederal share for not newly eligible individuals. Makes conforming changes, including to section title.

Adds new GS 108A-146.10A defining a modernized freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component as an amount of money that is calculated each quarter by multiplying the aggregate amount of HASP directed payments due to PHPs in the current quarter for reimbursements to freestanding psychiatric hospitals that are not attributable to newly eligible individuals by the nonfederal share for not newly eligible individuals.

Adds new GS 108A-146.4 (freestanding psychiatric hospital modernized assessment), applicable to all freestanding psychiatric hospitals, directing that all such hospitals' modernized assessments be assessed a percentage of their costs, calculated quarterly by the Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]. Specifies that the percentage for each quarter must equal the modernized freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component under G.S. 108A-146.10A divided by the total hospital costs for all freestanding psychiatric hospitals holding a license on the first day of the assessment quarter.

Amends GS 108A-146.5 (aggregate acute care hospital modernized assessment collection amount) to define the aggregate acute care hospital modernized assessment amount as an amount of money equal to the aggregate modernized assessment collection amount under GS 108A-146.5(a) minus the modernized freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component under

GS 108A-146.10A. Adds the freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP as one of the total modernized nonfederal receipts under the statute. Makes conforming changes.

Amends the formulas set forth in GS 108A-146.13(c) (pertaining to modernized presumptive IGT [intergovernmental transfer] adjustment components) to account for new GS 108A-146.10A (free standing psychiatric hospital HASP components) and acute care hospital HASPS.

Adds new GS 108A-147.6A (pertaining to health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP components), defining a health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component is an amount of money that is calculated by multiplying the aggregate amount of HASP directed payments due to PHPs in the current quarter for reimbursements to freestanding psychiatric hospitals attributable to newly eligible individuals by the nonfederal share for newly eligible individuals.

Adds new GS 108A-147.2A (freestanding psychiatric health advancement assessment) applicable to all freestanding psychiatric hospitals, directing that all such hospitals' freestanding psychiatric hospital health advancement assessment be assessed as a percentage of each freestanding psychiatric hospital's hospital costs. Directs that the assessment percentage be calculated quarterly by DHHS in accordance with the statute. Directs that the percentage for each quarter equals the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component calculated under GS 108A-147.6A divided by the total hospital costs for all freestanding psychiatric hospitals holding a license on the first day of the assessment quarter.

Amends GS 108A-147.3 (pertaining to aggregate acute care hospital health advancement assessment collection amount) as follows. Adds the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP as one of the total nonfederal receipts for health advancement under the statute. Defines the aggregate acute care hospital health advancement assessment collection amount as an amount of money equal to the aggregate health advancement assessment collection amount under subsection (a) of GS 108A-147.3 minus the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component under GS 108A-147.6A. Makes conforming change.

Amends GS 108A-147.5(d)(5) (potential bases of the presumptive cost components) so that the formula is now the amount produced from multiplying 1.15 by the highest amount produced when calculating, for each quarter that is at least two and not more than five quarters prior to the current quarter, the actual nonfederal expenditures for the applicable quarter minus the health advancement acute care hospital HASP component calculated under GS 108A-147.6 for the applicable quarter and minus the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component calculated under GS 108A-147.6A for the applicable quarter (currently no reference to health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component). Makes conforming changes.

Adds another prong, the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component calculated under GS 108A-147.6A for the quarter that is two quarters prior to the current quarter, to the list elements that should be subtracted to specified actual nonfederal expenses to obtain the health advancement reconciliation under GS 108A-147.11(a). Makes conforming changes.

Makes conforming changes to GS 108A-146.1 (public hospital modernized assessments); GS 108A-146.3 (private hospital modernized assessments); GS 108A-147.1 (public hospital health advancement assessments); GS 108A-147.2 (private hospital health advancement assessments); GS 108A-147.6 (health advancement acute care hospital HASP component) to account for new acute care provisions.

Effective on the first day of the next assessment quarter after the date this act becomes law and applies to assessments imposed on or after that date.

**Intro. by Lambeth, Potts, White, Reeder.**

[GS 108A](#)

[View summary](#)

**[Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Health Insurance, Mental Health](#)**

## PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 58 (2025-2026) [AG/RESTRICT CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENTIAL EOS](#). Filed Feb 5 2025, *AN ACT TO LIMIT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PARTICIPATION IN LITIGATION THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE INVALIDATION OF ANY EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.*

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Adds to the types of actions the Attorney General is prohibited from taking under GS 114-2.8 to include filing an action that would result in the invalidation of an executive order issued by the President of the United States. Makes organizational changes and changes the act's long title.

**Intro. by Settle, Hanig, Moffitt.**

GS 114

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Government, State Government, Executive](#)

S 177 (2025-2026) [ADD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS TO MEDICAID HASP](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO INCLUDE FREESTANDING PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS AS HOSPITALS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS UNDER THE MEDICAID HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND STABILIZATION PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THOSE PAYMENTS THROUGH INCREASED HOSPITAL ASSESSMENTS.*

Adds defined term, freestanding psychiatric hospital to GS 108A-145.3 (definitions provisions of the Hospital Assessment Act) and makes conforming and organizational changes. Amends GS 108A-148.1 (pertaining to the State's Healthcare Access and Stabilization Program [HASP]) so that the HASP must provide qualifying freestanding standing psychiatric hospitals within increased reimbursements funded through hospital assessment, so long as it is approved by CMS. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to submit a 42 CFR 438.6(c) preprint requesting approval to include freestanding psychiatric hospitals in HASP. Defines qualifying freestanding psychiatric hospital as a freestanding psychiatric hospital as defined in GS 108A-145.3 that is Medicare-certified and submits Hospital Cost Report Information System cost report data to CMS.

Amends the definition of modernized HASP component in GS 108A-146.10 so that it is now an amount of money that is calculated each quarter by multiplying the aggregate amount of HASP directed payments due to PHPs in the current quarter for reimbursements to acute care hospitals (currently, just hospitals) that are not attributable to newly eligible individuals by the nonfederal share for not newly eligible individuals. Makes conforming changes, including to section title.

Adds new GS 108A-146.10A defining a modernized freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component as an amount of money that is calculated each quarter by multiplying the aggregate amount of HASP directed payments due to PHPs in the current quarter for reimbursements to freestanding psychiatric hospitals that are not attributable to newly eligible individuals by the nonfederal share for not newly eligible individuals.

Adds new GS 108A-146.4 (freestanding psychiatric hospital modernized assessment), applicable to all freestanding psychiatric hospitals, directing that all such hospitals' modernized assessments be assessed a percentage of their costs, calculated quarterly by the Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]. Specifies that the percentage for each quarter must equal the modernized freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component under G.S. 108A-146.10A divided by the total hospital costs for all freestanding psychiatric hospitals holding a license on the first day of the assessment quarter.

Amends GS 108A-146.5 (aggregate acute care hospital modernized assessment collection amount) to define the aggregate acute care hospital modernized assessment amount as an amount of money equal to the aggregate modernized assessment collection amount under GS 108A-146.5(a) minus the modernized freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component under GS 108A-146.10A. Adds the freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP as one of the total modernized nonfederal receipts under the statute. Makes conforming changes.

Amends the formulas set forth in GS 108A-146.13(c) (pertaining to modernized presumptive IGT [intergovernmental transfer] adjustment components) to account for new GS 108A-146.10A (free standing psychiatric hospital HASP components) and acute care hospital HASPS.

Adds new GS 108A-147.6A (pertaining to health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP components), defining a health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component is an amount of money that is calculated by multiplying the aggregate amount of HASP directed payments due to PHPs in the current quarter for reimbursements to freestanding psychiatric hospitals attributable to newly eligible individuals by the nonfederal share for newly eligible individuals.

Adds new GS 108A-147.2A (freestanding psychiatric health advancement assessment) applicable to all freestanding psychiatric hospitals, directing that all such hospitals' freestanding psychiatric hospital health advancement assessment be assessed as a percentage of each freestanding psychiatric hospital's hospital costs. Directs that the assessment percentage be calculated quarterly by DHHS in accordance with the statute. Directs that the percentage for each quarter equals the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component calculated under GS 108A-147.6A divided by the total hospital costs for all freestanding psychiatric hospitals holding a license on the first day of the assessment quarter.

Amends GS 108A-147.3 (pertaining to aggregate acute care hospital health advancement assessment collection amount) as follows. Adds the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP as one of the total nonfederal receipts for health advancement under the statute. Defines the aggregate acute care hospital health advancement assessment collection amount as an amount of money equal to the aggregate health advancement assessment collection amount under subsection (a) of GS 108A-147.3 minus the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component under GS 108A-147.6A. Makes conforming change.

Amends GS 108A-147.5(d)(5) (potential bases of the presumptive cost components) so that the formula is now the amount produced from multiplying 1.15 by the highest amount produced when calculating, for each quarter that is at least two and not more than five quarters prior to the current quarter, the actual nonfederal expenditures for the applicable quarter minus the health advancement acute care hospital HASP component calculated under GS 108A-147.6 for the applicable quarter and minus the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component calculated under GS 108A-147.6A for the applicable quarter (currently no reference to health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component). Makes conforming changes.

Adds another prong, the health advancement freestanding psychiatric hospital HASP component calculated under GS 108A-147.6A for the quarter that is two quarters prior to the current quarter, to the list elements that should be subtracted to specified actual nonfederal expenses to obtain the health advancement reconciliation under GS 108A-147.11(a). Makes conforming changes.

Makes conforming changes to GS 108A-146.1 (public hospital modernized assessments); GS 108A-146.3 (private hospital modernized assessments); GS 108A-147.1 (public hospital health advancement assessments); GS 108A-147.2 (private hospital health advancement assessments); GS 108A-147.6 (health advancement acute care hospital HASP component) to account for new acute care provisions.

Effective on the first day of the next assessment quarter after the date this act becomes law and applies to assessments imposed on or after that date.

**Intro. by Hise, Burgin, Sawrey.**

[GS 108A](#)

[View summary](#)

**[Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Health Insurance, Mental Health](#)**

S 178 (2025-2026) [ASSESSMENT OF SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE UNIFORM ASSESSMENT STANDARD FOR SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES*.

Defines the value of a *self-service storage facility* (defined) for purposes of taxation at its true value under GS 105-284 (uniform assessment standard) as based upon the land on which the facility is situated and any improvement thereon, less normal depreciation and obsolescence, and exclusive of *business intangible value* (defined). Effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

**Intro. by Johnson.**

GS 105

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing,  
Government, Tax**

S 179 (2025-2026) [PARTNERSHIP WITH VOICES TOGETHER](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING PROVIDED BY THE NONPROFIT CORPORATION VOICES TOGETHER*.

Appropriates \$2.5 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction to Voices Together to provide programming for Pre-Employment Transition Services to middle school students who encounter delays or who have intellectual and developmental disabilities in North Carolina school systems where Voices Together provides programming at the high school level. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Corbin, Hanig, P. Newton.**

APPROP

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,  
Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies,  
Department of Public Instruction**

S 181 (2025-2026) [INCREASE FUNDING FOR MOBILE CRISIS UNITS](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MOBILE CRISIS UNITS*.

Appropriates \$2 million in recurring funds for each year of 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services, to support the addition of five new mobile crisis teams with a focus on providing services to the areas of highest need. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Grafstein.**

APPROP

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies,  
Department of Health and Human Services, Health and  
Human Services, Mental Health**

S 182 (2025-2026) [FUNDS/CONOVER WATER AND WASTEWATER](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE CITY OF CONOVER FOR A WATER AND SEWER PROJECT*.

Appropriates \$22 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to Conover for water or wastewater system improvements. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Hollo.**

APPROP, Catawba

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Enterprises and  
Utilities**

S 183 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR VSO IN JONES COUNTY](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A PART-TIME VETERAN SERVICES OFFICER IN JONES COUNTY*.



Appropriates \$30,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as title indicates. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Jackson, Lazzara.**

APPROP, Jones

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

S 184 (2025-2026) [SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEES/EXEMPTION](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT GRANTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS THE AUTHORITY TO EXEMPT PROPERTY BEING DEVELOPED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING FROM SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEES.*

Amends GS 162A-203 to allow a local government unit or a joint agency to exempt affordable housing parcels from a system development fee. Requires the unit or joint agency to adopt criteria for determining whether a parcel qualifies for the exemption.

**Intro. by Lowe.**

GS 162A

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Property and Housing, Government, Local Government**

S 186 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR LADDER TRUCK FOR WS FIRE STATION 19](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PURCHASE A LADDER TRUCK FOR FIRE STATION 19 IN WINSTON-SALEM.*

Appropriates \$2 million from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the City of Winston-Salem to be used as the title indicates. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Lowe.**

APPROP, Forsyth

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management**

S 188 (2025-2026) [FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO NC4ME](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO NORTH CAROLINA FOR MILITARY EMPLOYMENT FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND VETERAN EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES AND TO REQUIRE ANNUAL REPORTS.*

Appropriates from the General Fund \$450,000 in recurring funds for each year of 2025-27 biennium to the Department of Commerce for the support of the North Carolina for Military Employment (NC4ME) for employer engagement and training, job fairs and hiring events tailored to transitioning service members and veterans, and outreach and support services for military spouses seeking employment. Requires NC4ME to submit an annual report to the Department of Commerce and the specified NCGA committee by October 1 of each year on the three listed matters, including metrics and outcomes, and how funds were spent. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Lazzara.**

APPROP

[View summary](#)

**Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Commerce, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

Enacts new Article 18J, Physician Assistant Licensure Compact (PA Compact), to GS Chapter 90. States the purpose of the PA Compact and sets forth 22 defined terms, including *adverse action* (any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by a state's laws which is imposed by a Licensing Board or other authority against a PA License or license application or compact privilege such as license denial, censure, revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the licensee, or restriction on the licensee's practice), *qualifying license* (an unrestricted license issued by a participating state to provide medical services as a PA), *remote state* (a participating state where a licensee who's not licensed is seeking to exercise compact privileges), and *significant investigative information* (investigative information that a licensing board, after an inquiry or investigation that includes notification and an opportunity for the PA to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proven true, would indicate more than a minor infraction).

Lists eight requirements for a State to participate in the PA Compact, including that it licenses PAs who have, amongst other things, passed a nationally recognized exam; conducts certain background checks; and grants PA compact privileges to qualifying licensees from participating states. Specifies that participating states may charge a fee for granting PA Compact privileges. Adds new GS 90-270.203, listing 12 requirements a licensee must meet to be granted compact privileges, including graduation from certain PA programs, certifications, holding a qualifying license, and no felony or misdemeanor convictions along with other background qualifiers. Specifies that compact privileges are valid until the expiration or revocation of the licensee's qualifying license. Directs that if the participating state in the PA Compact where the licensee is licensed takes adverse action (defined), then the licensee's compact privileges in any remote state in which they have privileges are lost until the license is no longer limited or restricted and two years have elapsed from the date that the license became no longer limited or restricted and the licensee again meets the 12 requirements for compact privileges in GS 90-270.203(a). Requires that, for each remote state where a PA seeks authority to prescribe controlled substances, the PA must satisfy all requirements imposed by the state in granting or renewing such authority.

Adds new GS 90-270.204, requiring that the licensee identify the participating state where they are applying along with (1) the address of their primary residence, (2) requirement to immediately report any changes of primary residence, and (3) the licensee consents to service of process at their primary residence.

Adds new GS 90-270.205, pertaining to adverse actions. Designates the participating state where the PA is licensed with exclusive power to impose adverse action against the PA's qualifying license issued by that state. Lists four things that remote states have the authority to do, including taking adverse action against a PA's compact privilege or other action necessary to protect the health and safety of its citizens. Requires the licensee's participating state to give priority and effect to reported conduct received from any other participating state as if the conduct occurred in the participating state itself. Requires the participating state to apply its own laws to determine appropriate action. Allows participating states to recover costs of investigation and disposition of cases from licensees subject to an adverse action. Allows for adverse actions by participating states based on factual findings of a remote state. Provides for joint investigations by participating and remote states. Specifies that if an adverse action is taken against the qualifying license then the PA's compact privileges in all remote states are deactivated until two years have elapsed after all restrictions have been removed from the license. Provides for a disciplinary order and notice by the participating state to the administrator of the data system established under GS 90-270.207.

Adds new GS 90-276.206, establishing a PA Licensure Compact Commission (Commission), a joint government agency and national administrative body. Provides for Commission membership; voting; meetings; powers and duties; an executive committee; financing; recordkeeping; and member-qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification. Among the 23 powers and duties charged of the Committee, includes establishing a code of ethics, prosecuting legal proceedings and actions so long as the standing of any state licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law is not affected, and the acquisition and disposal of property. Provides for Commission rulemaking procedures and effect, including a participating state challenge of a Commission rule if it conflicts with the state's law pertaining to medical services that a PA may perform in the state and rejection of a rule by a majority of participating state legislatures.

Adds new GS 90-270.207, requiring the Commission to establish a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and the reporting of the existence of significant investigative information on all licensed PAs and applicants denied a license in participating states. Designates information provided to a participating state from the database is

an authenticated business record entitled to a hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative proceeding in a participating state when certified by the Commission or an agent thereof.

Adds new GS 90-270.209, detailing oversight of the PA Compact by the executive and judicial branches in each participating state, dispute resolution procedures between member states, and PA Compact enforcement by the Commission. Provides for member state default grounds and procedures, member termination procedures, and dissolution. Provides for venue and available remedies in legal action against the Commission. Specifies that only a participating state can enforce the PA Compact against the Commission. Adds new GS 90-270.210, that provides for the Compact to become effective upon enactment in the seventh member state and withdrawal procedures by member states. Requires the Commission to review all participating state charters once the PA Compact becomes effective to ensure they are all in compliance with the model compact. Allows for a participating state to default if its compact is materially in conflict with the model compact.

Deems the provisions of the PA Compact severable and advises on its construction and effect on other laws.

Makes conforming changes to GS 90-9.3 (requirements for licensure as a physician assistant).

Amends GS 90-13.2 to require privilege holders to register annually with the North Carolina Medical Board as required by new Article 18J and any rules adopted by the Commission.

Effective October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Hise, Hollo, Galey.**

GS 90

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers**

S 191 (2025-2026) [CFSS GUN PRSNT. FOR GRADE 7 AND 9 STUDENTS](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE CENTER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP A PRESENTATION ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF GUN USE AND TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS TO PROVIDE THE PRESENTATION TO ALL STUDENTS IN GRADE SEVEN AND GRADE NINE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITS.*

Amends GS 143B-1209.59(c) (pertaining to the Center for Safer Schools [Center]) to require the Center to develop and update, as necessary, an interactive presentation on the legal, medical, and emotional consequences of youth gun possession, substance abuse, gun violence, and gun safety for students in grade seven and grade nine. Specifies that the Center must provide training and materials for the presentation to all local school administrative units and must provide training and materials to any other public school unit which requests to voluntarily give the presentation. Amends GS 115C-47 (pertaining to the powers and duties of local boards of education) to require each school administrative unit to provide a presentation on the consequences of gun use in line with the requirement set forth above. Specifies required notice provision to parents, and allows parents to opt their student out of the presentation. Appropriates \$900,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction in recurring funds for the 2025-26 fiscal year for the Center to provide training and materials to enable local school administrative units and other voluntary public school units to give a presentation on the consequences of gun use to students in grade seven and grade nine. Effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

**Intro. by Burgin, Corbin.**

APPROP, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Public Instruction**

S 192 (2025-2026) [INCREASE VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION FEE](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT INCREASING THE FEE FOR PERFORMING A VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION.*

Identical to [H 153](#), filed 2/18/25.

Increases the vehicle safety inspection fee from \$12.75 to \$29.15 and the vehicle safety and emissions inspection fee from \$23.17 to \$40.15, as set forth in GS 20-183.7. Effective October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Burgin.**

GS 20

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Transportation**

S 193 (2025-2026) [UPDATE REGISTER OF DEEDS' SUPP. PENSION FUND](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO UPDATE THE SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION PROVIDED TO REGISTERS OF DEEDS BY PROVIDING A FLAT RATE MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION AMOUNT TO ALL ELIGIBLE RETIRED REGISTERS OF DEEDS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE RELATED STATUTES.*

Amends GS 161-50.3, concerning disbursements into the Register of Deeds' Supplement Pension Fund (Fund), to set forth a calculation for pro rata payments that must occur should the Fund be insufficient to pay pension or other charges. Specifies that the pro rata payment calculated would remain in effect until either the Fund can cover the full amount of the monthly pension payments or the next calendar year if the Fund remains insufficient, at which time the monthly pro rata payment made to each eligible register of deeds must be recalculated. Removes outdated language and makes technical change. Removes Fund eligibility for any county register of deeds who is not eligible to retire with the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS) solely because the county has not elected to participate as an employer with the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System and who has also met age and/or service requirements from GS 161-50.4 (Fund eligibility). Makes technical changes.

Makes conforming changes to GS 161-50.5 to account for removal of eligibility prong in GS 161-50.4. On or after October 1, 2025, a retired register of deeds will be entitled to receive a pension benefit of \$1,500 per month. Specifies that current statutory formula applies prior to October 1, 2025.

Reorganizes provisions pertaining to cessation of pension payments upon death of the pensioner, reemployment with an employer participating in LGERS, and forfeiture of benefits into new GS 161-50.10. Makes technical changes. Specifies that Article 3 of GS Chapter 161 (Article) does not preclude or in any way affect the benefits that an individual receiving benefits under the Article may be entitled to from any state, federal or private pension, retirement plan, or other deferred compensation plan. Applies to payments made pursuant to the Article to eligible registers of deeds on or after October 1, 2025. Specifies that if any pension benefit under the Article is payable for any month prior to October 1, 2025, but is paid on or after that date, then the amount paid will be the amount that was in effect for the applicable month.

Effective October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Hanig, Ford.**

GS 161

[View summary](#)

**Employment and Retirement**

## LOCAL/HOUSE BILLS

H 225 (2025-2026) [RESTORE DOWN-ZONING/WAKE FOREST & ROLESVILLE](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE DOWN-ZONING IN THE TOWNS OF WAKE FOREST AND ROLESVILLE.*

Amends GS 160D-601(d), as amended by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57, as follows. Allows down-zoning amendments to be initiated by a local government without the written consent of all property owners whose property is the subject of the amendment. Removes prohibition on enacting such amendments without the written consent of the property owners whose property owners are subject to the amendment, but specifies that such amendments cannot be initiated or enforced without such written consent. Narrows the list of what is considered down-zoning under the statute by removing a zoning ordinance that affects an area of land by creating any type of nonconformity on land not in a residential zoning district, including a

nonconforming use, nonconforming lot, nonconforming structure, nonconforming improvement, or nonconforming site element. Applicable only to Wake Forest and Rolesville. Effective when the act becomes law and applies retroactively to December 11, 2024. Directs that any adopted ordinance affected by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57 will be in effect as it was on or before December 11, 2024.

**Intro. by Schietzelt.**

Wake, GS 160D

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning**

H 226 (2025-2026) **CITY OF GREENSBORO/DEANNEXATIONS**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT REMOVING CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY FROM THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO*.

Removes two parcels as described from the corporate limits of the City of Greensboro. Provides a savings clause for the validity of any liens of the City of Greensboro for outstanding ad valorem taxes or special assessments. Effective June 30, 2025. Deems property in the described territory as of January 1, 2025, no longer subject to municipal taxes for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Blust.**

Guilford

[View summary](#)

**Government, Local Government**

H 240 (2025-2026) **DAVIDSON CHARTER CONSOLIDATION**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO REVISE AND CONSOLIDATE THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF DAVIDSON*.

Revises and consolidates the Charter of the Town of Davidson to now provide the following.

Provides for the Town of Davidson's (Town)'s incorporation, grants the Town municipal corporate powers conferred by general law, and sets out the Town's corporate boundaries.

Establishes the five-member Town Board of Commissioners (Board) and the Mayor as the Town's governing body, with the mayor elected to serve a two-year term and Board members serving staggered four-year terms. Includes mayor and member residency requirements. Sets forth the duties of the Mayor. Requires the Board to elect a Mayor Pro Tempore from among its members and details their powers. Provides for Board meetings, quorum, voting, compensation, and vacancies.

Provides for nonpartisan municipal elections in odd-numbered years. Regarding Board elections, requires all members be elected on a staggered schedule. Authorizes special elections and referenda to be held as provided by statutory law and general law.

Establishes the Town's operation under the council-manager form of government in accordance with Part 2 of Article 7 of GS Chapter 160A. Deems the Town Manager the chief Town administrator, with powers and duties provided by general law and as prescribed by the Board. Requires the Board to appoint a Town Attorney. Directs the Board to appoint a Town Clerk. Allows the Town Manager to appoint other administration and department heads.

Requires in the 2025 election that the two persons receiving the two highest numbers of votes serve four-year terms and the three persons receiving the next three highest numbers of votes serve two-year terms. Requires in 2027, and quadrennially thereafter, three members of the Board to be elected for four-year terms and in 2029, and quadrennially thereafter, two members of the Board to be elected for four-year terms.

Specifies the legislative purpose and intent of the act to revise and consolidate the Town Charter. Provides for interpretation and effect of the act.

Repeals the following SL Chapters and Sections, either consolidated in this act or no longer necessary: SL 1891-281, SL 1935-106, and SL 1957-36. Specifies that this act has no effect upon: SL 1993-411 (exemption from certain zoning notices); SL 1997-420 (concerning the regulation of trees); and SL 1999-85 (allowing the Town to make additional voluntary satellite annexations if certain criteria are met).

Provides for the continued validity of all existing ordinances, resolutions, and other provisions of the Town not inconsistent with the act. Includes a severability clause. Provides a savings clause for pending actions and proceedings.

**Intro. by Carver.**

UNCODIFIED, Iredell, Mecklenburg

[View summary](#)

H 243 (2025-2026) [DURHAM/ELECTRONIC NOTICES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DURHAM AND DURHAM COUNTY TO USE ELECTRONIC MEANS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC HEARINGS*.

Authorizes the City of Durham's and Durham County's governing bodies to adopt ordinances enabling notice of public hearings required under GS Chapter 160D (local planning and development regulation) by joint planning board through electronic means, including, but not limited to, the city's or county's website. Retains state law requirements that mailed notice be given to certain classes of people and signs posted on certain property, as well as publication schedules for public notices.

**Intro. by Jeffers.**

UNCODIFIED, Durham

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning](#)

## LOCAL/SENATE BILLS

S 173 (2025-2026) [23RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 23RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Meyer.**

Caswell, Orange, Person

[View summary](#)

S 174 (2025-2026) [RUTHERFORD CTY/ISOTHERMAL CC CONSTRUCTION](#). Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT PROVIDING THAT RUTHERFORD COUNTY IS AUTHORIZED TO CONSTRUCT COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUILDINGS ON THE CAMPUSES OF ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY*.

Authorizes Rutherford County (County) to construct community college buildings (defined) on the campuses of Isothermal Community College (College) within the County. Defines *construct* and *construction* to include making additions, improvements, renovations, or repairs to all or any part of a community college building. Provides for financing of such construction, including by transfer of College property to the County as security with a leaseback provision upon completion of building construction. Exempts the County from GS 115D-9 (powers of State Board of Community Colleges regarding capital improvements) and the general provisions governing the Department of Administration laid out in Part I of Article 36 in GS Chapter 143. Requires the County to comply with provisions of GS Chapter 143 pertaining to the procurement of architectural, engineering, and surveying services as well as public contracting. Authorizes an MOU between the College and County if

certain circumstances permit. Applies only to construction projects, including additions, improvements, renovations, and repairs, coordinated by the County for College uses and purposes.

**Intro. by Moffitt.**

Rutherford

[View summary](#)

**Education, Higher Education, Government, Local Government**

S 175 (2025-2026) **FLEXIBILITY IN FILLING VACANCIES/DURHAM**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN FILLING VACANCIES ON THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE CITY OF DURHAM*.

Amends Sections 13.2 and 13.3 of the Charter of the City of Durham, SL 1975-671, as amended. Authorizes the City Council to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy occurring in the office of Mayor or a member of City Council within 120 days of the vacancy (currently, 60 days). Makes technical and conforming changes.

**Intro. by Murdock, Chitlik.**

Durham

[View summary](#)

**Government, Local Government**

S 176 (2025-2026) **LET MITCHELL CO, NC SIGN MOU WITH UNICOI CO**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW THE MITCHELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE, SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO PERFORM LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL OPERATIONS MISSIONS ACROSS STATE LINES*.

Authorizes the Mitchell County Sheriff's Office (Office) to enter into MOUs with the Unicoi County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office to engage in law enforcement special operations across state lines. Directs that the MOU must address the manner in which liability claims for damage to persons or property will be shared or assigned, while limiting the liability of the State and Mitchell County to the greatest extent possible while ensuring public safety. Requires that any MOU entered into that year be reported to the Department of Justice by November 1 of each year.

**Intro. by Hise.**

UNCODIFIED, Mitchell

[View summary](#)

**Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Justice, Local Government**

S 180 (2025-2026) **ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH RESIDENCY DISTRICTS FOR THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*.

Repeals SL 1987-281 (expanding the Anson County Board of Commissioners [Board] from five to seven members and providing for their nomination and election from districts). Establishes the Board as consisting of seven members elected from seven single-member residency districts voted on by all eligible voters in the county. Requires candidates to be qualified voter and resident of the district they seek to serve. Specifies that the residency districts established by the act are the same as the election districts used in the 2020 and 2022 Board elections until revised. Provides for start-dates and end-dates for terms of office. Makes conforming changes to GS 153A-22.1(f), as amended. Effective the first Monday in December 2026. Requires elections in 2026 and thereafter to be conducted accordingly.

**Intro. by Johnson.**

UNCODIFIED, Anson, GS 153A

[View summary](#)

**Government, Elections**

S 185 (2025-2026) [RESTORE DOWN-ZONING/FORSYTH CO.](#) Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE DOWN-ZONING IN FORSYTH COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES IN FORSYTH COUNTY.*

Amends GS 160D-601(d), as amended by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57, as follows. Allows down-zoning amendments to be initiated by a local government without the written consent of all property owners whose property is the subject of the amendment. Removes prohibition on enacting such amendments without the written consent of the property owners whose property owners are subject to the amendment, but specifies that such amendments cannot be initiated or enforced without such written consent. Narrows the list of what is considered down-zoning under the statute by removing a zoning ordinance that affects an area of land by creating any type of nonconformity on land not in a residential zoning district, including a nonconforming use, nonconforming lot, nonconforming structure, nonconforming improvement, or nonconforming site element. Applicable only to Forsyth County and the municipalities located therein. Effective when the act becomes law and applies retroactively to December 11, 2024. Directs that any adopted ordinance affected by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57 will be in effect as it was on or before December 11, 2024.

**Intro. by Lowe.**

Forsyth, GS 160D

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning**

S 187 (2025-2026) [32ND SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.](#) Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 32ND SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Lowe.**

Forsyth

[View summary](#)

S 189 (2025-2026) [WINSTON-SALEM CIVIL SERVICE BOARD.](#) Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM TO PROVIDE THAT FORMER EMPLOYEES APPOINTED TO THE CITY'S CIVIL SERVICE BOARD MUST HAVE SEPARATED IN GOOD STANDING WITHOUT A SUSTAINED CONDUCT VIOLATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.*

Amends Section 111.1 of the Winston-Salem Charter, SL 1927-232, as amended, as the title indicates. Applies to appointments to the Winston-Salem Civil Service Board on or after August 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Lowe.**

UNCODIFIED, Forsyth

[View summary](#)

## ACTIONS ON BILLS

## PUBLIC BILLS

### **H 8: NC MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE ACT OF 2025.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Re-ref Com On State and Local Government*



**H 40: GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 2025 PART 1.**

*House: Amend Adopted A1*  
*House: Passed 2nd Reading*  
*House: Passed 3rd Reading*  
*House: Ordered Engrossed*

**H 44: GSC ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES.**

*House: Passed 2nd Reading*  
*House: Passed 3rd Reading*

**H 45: GSC MORAL TURPITUDE/OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE.**

*House: Withdrawn From Cal*  
*House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 47: DISASTER RECOVERY ACT OF 2025 - PART I.**

*House: Regular Message Sent To Senate*  
*Senate: Regular Message Received From House*  
*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*  
*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**H 48: INCREASE UI MAX BENEFIT/2025 UI TAX CREDIT.**

*House: Passed 3rd Reading*

**H 130: AGRICULTURE CROPS DISASTER RELIEF.**

*House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute*  
*House: Re-ref Com On Appropriations*

**H 157: STATE OF THE STATE INVITATION.**

*House: Special Message Sent To Senate*  
*Senate: Special Message Received From House*  
*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*  
*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*  
*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*  
*Senate: Placed on Today's Calendar*  
*Senate: Passed 2nd Reading*  
*Senate: Passed 3rd Reading*  
*Senate: Ordered Enrolled*

**H 186: THE STARS AND STRIPES COMMITMENT ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*  
*House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Judiciary 1, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 187: CREDIT UNION UPDATE.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*  
*House: Ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 188: AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*  
*House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, State and Local Government, if favorable, Commerce and Economic Development, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 189: RED LIGHT CAMERA DELAY INTERVAL.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*  
*House: Ref to the Com on Transportation, if favorable, Judiciary 1, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 192: RAISE TEACHER PAY & DOLLAR ALLOT. STUDY.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 193: FIREARM LAW REVISIONS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 196: FUNDS MUSEUM OF LIFE AND SCIENCE EXHIBIT/LAB.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 197: LOCAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROGRAMS/FUNDS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 198: AMEND LAW ON NOTICE FROM ALE OF VIOLATION.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Alcoholic Beverage Control, if favorable, Judiciary 1, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 199: NONCONSENSUAL BOOTING AND TOWING REFORM.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 1, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 202: DEFENSE AGAINST PORCH PIRATES ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 203: HOME WARRANT ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 206: MOD. GUN RETRIEVAL - DVOS/JUVENILE 911 CALLS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 207: REMOVE BARRIERS TO LABOR ORGANIZING.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 224: STRENGTHEN OUR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES ACT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 227: U.S. & N.C. FLAGS/MADE IN USA.**

*House: Filed*

**H 228: CITY OF ASHEVILLE/FUNDS FOR STUDY.**

*House: Filed*

**H 229: MEDICAID RATES/AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 230: CREATE CRIME FOR HABITUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

*House: Filed*

**H 231: SOCIAL WORK INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 232: FUNDS/SHORT-LINE RAILROAD DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

*House: Filed*

**H 233: FUNDS FOR TOWN OF MILTON.**

*House: Filed*

**H 234: LITTLE FEDERAL MODEL NC EDITION.**

*House: Filed*

**H 235: FRAUDULENT DEEDS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 236: REMEMBER 9/11 WITH FREEDOM FLAG.**

*House: Filed*

**H 237: CHILD WELFARE.**

*House: Filed*

**H 238: REIMBURSE BUNCOMBE CO. FOR COST OF STUDY.**

*House: Filed*

**H 239: CHANGE TO EC FUNDING FORMULA.**

*House: Filed*

**H 241: FUNDS FOR PERSON COUNTY PROJECTS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 242: ADD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS TO MEDICAID HASP.**

*House: Filed*

**S 55: STUDENT USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES.**

*Senate: Reptd Fav*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 58: AG/RESTRICT CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENTIAL EOS.**

*Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute*

*Senate: Com Substitute Adopted*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 115: GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS.**

*House: Special Message Sent To Senate*

*Senate: Special Message Received For Concurrence in H Com Sub*

*Senate: Placed on Today's Calendar*

*Senate: Concurred In H Com Sub*

*Senate: Ordered Enrolled*

**S 125: REORGANIZATION OF CHAPTER 115D.**

*Senate: Reptd Fav*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 133: NCCCS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

*Senate: Reptd Fav*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 150: CONFIRM JOEY HOPKINS/SEC. OF DOT.**

*Senate: Reptd Fav*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Select Committee on Nominations*

**S 153: NORTH CAROLINA BORDER PROTECTION ACT.**

*Senate: Reptd Fav*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 155: SOCIAL WORK INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACT.**

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to Finance. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 157: FUNDS FOR JOHNSON C. SMITH TECH PROJECT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Appropriations/Base Budget*

**S 158: FUNDS FOR MCCROREY YMCA/FLYING CLASSROOM.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Appropriations/Base Budget*

**S 159: ELDERLY PROP. TAX APPRECIATION EXCLUSION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 160: RESPIRATORY CARE MODERNIZATION ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 161: THE JENESIS FIREARM ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 162: SHARED PARENTING.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 164: THEFT OF TEMPORARY HOUSING DURING EMERGENCY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 165: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING/UNION & IREDELL COS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 166: REPEAL LIMITATIONS ON AUXILIARY CONTAINERS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 167: REVISE, STUDY, AND FUND LEP ALLOTMENT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 169: LABOR ORG. MEMBERSHIP DUES TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 170: FOSTER PARENTS RIGHTS/NOTICE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 171: MODERNIZE REG/MASTER'S LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 172: STIP GRANT ANTICIPATION NOTES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 177: ADD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS TO MEDICAID HASP.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 178: ASSESSMENT OF SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 179: PARTNERSHIP WITH VOICES TOGETHER.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 181: INCREASE FUNDING FOR MOBILE CRISIS UNITS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 182: FUNDS/CONOVER WATER AND WASTEWATER.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 183: FUNDS FOR VSO IN JONES COUNTY.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 184: SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEES/EXEMPTION.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 186: FUNDS FOR LADDER TRUCK FOR WS FIRE STATION 19.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 188: FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO NC4ME.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 190: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE COMPACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 191: CFSS GUN PRSNT. FOR GRADE 7 AND 9 STUDENTS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 192: INCREASE VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION FEE.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 193: UPDATE REGISTER OF DEEDS' SUPP. PENSION FUND.**

*Senate: Filed*

**LOCAL BILLS**

**H 185: TRANSYLVANIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 1, if favorable, State and Local Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 190: SCHCAL MANDATORY WINTER BREAK/DATE ADJUSTMENT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 191: SCHCALFLEX/DURHAM,PERSON/AUG 10 & ASSMNTS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 194: SCHCALFLEX/ASHEVILLE/OPEN CAL.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 195: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTH./CHATHAM CO.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 3, if favorable, Housing and Development, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 200: SCHCALFLEX/PENDER/CC.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 201: ROUTE 25/70 VEHICLE TRAILER RESTRICTIONS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Transportation, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 204: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTH./CABARRUS CO.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 3, if favorable, Housing and Development, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 205: SCHCALFLEX/CABARRUS/OPEN CAL.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 225: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING/WAKE FOREST & AMP ROLESVILLE.**

*House: Filed*

**H 226: CITY OF GREENSBORO/DEANNEXATIONS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 240: DAVIDSON CHARTER CONSOLIDATION.**

*House: Filed*

**H 243: DURHAM/ELECTRONIC NOTICES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

*House: Filed*

**S 130: REVISE FILING PERIOD/ELECTIONS/HENDERSONVILLE.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Elections. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 156: SCHCALFLEX/WAKE/CC.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 163: SCHCALFLEX/CHATHAM/AUG 10 & ASSMNTS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 168: DURHAM/REDUCE SPEED LIMITS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 173: 23RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 174: RUTHERFORD CTY/ISOTHERMAL CC CONSTRUCTION.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 175: FLEXIBILITY IN FILLING VACANCIES/DURHAM.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 176: LET MITCHELL CO, NC SIGN MOU WITH UNICOI CO.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 180: ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 185: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING/FORSYTH CO.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 187: 32ND SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 189: WINSTON-SALEM CIVIL SERVICE BOARD.**

*Senate: Filed*

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